

DEFENDING THE WATCHDOGS

Freedom of the press is an American right

GATORS IN THE SWAMP

Trump's administration shows numerous conflicts of interest

'We're not even the same Harrisonburg that we were five years ago.'

JAMES ALLEN / *THE BREEZE*

Deanna Reed, a Harrisonburg native, plans to use her new position as city mayor to address the overcrowded Harrisonburg High School. She hopes to create a safe and productive learning environment for students in the area

Harrisonburg experienced a historic moment when Deanna Reed became the first African-American woman to serve both on the city council and as mayor on Jan. 3.

In total, there have been only three women and three African-Americans to serve on council. The last time a woman served as Harrisonburg's mayor was in 2006.

"It's just exciting to have diversity in our leadership," Reed said. "That's something we needed. It's exciting, it's humbling, it's history."

Born and raised in Harrisonburg, Reed feels a strong connection to the city and its community.

"It's the foundation of who I am," Reed said. "I was just a regular concerned citizen that wanted to make a difference. I knew I was a voice that needed to be heard."

When Reed ran for city council, she didn't expect to win with over 9,000 votes, nor did she anticipate the nomination for the mayoral position. City council was a way for her to express her concerns and be able to do something about them.

However, with new responsibility comes new obstacles. According to Councilman George Hirschmann, that obstacle is the current size of Harrisonburg High School.

"The thing that is going to keep everybody busy right now is the school," Hirschmann said. "It's overcrowded."

After relocating from JMU's current Memorial Hall, the high school was rebuilt in 2006 with an intended student capacity of 1,300. There are now over 1,600 students due to Harrisonburg's continuous population growth, which pressures the new council.

"I'm very concerned about our kids," Reed said. "Our children have to have a safe environment, and they have to have an adequate space to learn."

Reed isn't the only one who feels this way. Parents from the Harrisonburg community have voiced their concern on the matter - some argue for an expansion, while others argue for an entirely new school.

With diverse proposals being debated, the voice and experience of third-term Vice Mayor Richard Baugh has provided relief to many parents' unease.

"I like being able to take things that people are wrestling with and

explain it to them," Baugh said. "I feel like I can provide value that way."

Hirschmann understands the current alarm, but he has confidence that the city is in good hands.

"Deanna has a lot of care for the city," Hirschmann said. "I think she's a good person to have at this time."

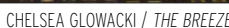
Reed feels that since Harrisonburg is developing at such a fast pace, the leadership needs to accept that its job is to keep up and make appropriate changes that will benefit the community.

"We're growing rapidly," Reed said. "We're not the same Harrisonburg we were when I grew up. We're not even the same Harrisonburg that we were five years ago."

The newly elected Reed and Hirschmann are eager to get started and make progress on these demands. As Reed explained, having diversity in leadership will be a major contributor to the success throughout their term.

"We each bring something different to the table," Reed said. "We might differ on some things, but we are going to work together to make the best decisions for this city."

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Genni Askin, sophomore psychology major, uses backs as canvases.

Student brings fresh art form to JMU

Throughout history, paintings have been displayed using different mediums, ranging from cave walls to canvases. Recent artists, however, have chosen a much more unconventional approach, creating some of their best work on people's bodies.

"People really like it," Genni Askin, a sophomore psychology major, said. "It's kind of like an expression of yourself on someone else's body."

Askin was originally inspired to try body art after seeing pictures online, but she decided that backs would be the perfect channel for her paintings because of their relatively flat space. She says that while some people didn't understand the reasoning behind her body painting at first, nearly all of the feedback has been positive. Jenna Wine,

a sophomore English major and the first person Askin painted on, was particularly thrilled with the galaxy design Askin created.

"She's an amazing artist," Wine said. "I always got her to draw stuff for me and draw on me."

Askin sticks with acrylic paint — as opposed to one specifically for body painting — and a variety of brushes to slowly sweep across the models' backs. Although Wine enjoyed the process, she admitted the feeling was peculiar.

"It feels like a massage to me," Wine said. "You just lay there and feel like duct tape [is] being put on you."

Jessica Hill, a junior sociology major at Randolph-Macon College and Askin's friend, is also a huge fan. After seeing some of her other work, Hill asked if Askin would paint on her.

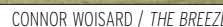
see **BACK**, page 8

Women's lacrosse adds 90-second possession clock

Imagine a basketball game with no shot clock. Teams could hold the ball for as long as they wanted, maintaining possession for minutes at a time. That's how women's lacrosse has been at the collegiate level for as long as it's been a college sport, but that's about to change. As of this upcoming spring season, the NCAA is implementing a 90-second possession clock to prevent teams from stalling and to keep play moving.

In order for the possession clock to reset, there must be a change in possession or shot on goal. This is unlike men's lacrosse, where teams are given a "stall warning" if they aren't being productive with possession. Lacrosse coaches across the country seem to think this is a step in the right direction, including JMU head coach Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe.

see **LAX**, page 9



Junior midfielder Elena Romesburg makes a pass in last season's game against UNC

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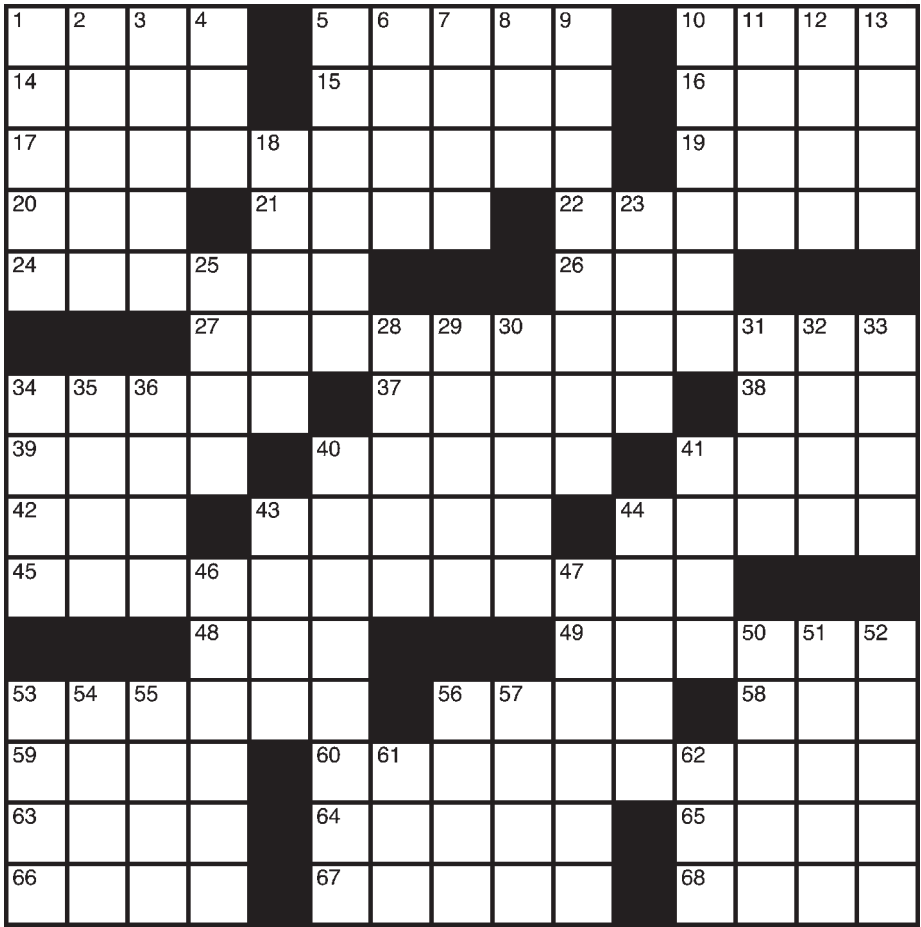
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Thursday, January 26, 2017



By Jeff Stillman

1/26/17

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

Across

- 1 Hindu noble
5 Like pastrami
10 Rum cake
14 "O no! it is an ___-fixed mark ...": Shak.
15 "SNL" alum Cheri
16 Restaurant in the same corporate group as Applebee's
17 What rattlers that never bask in the sun may get?
19 Pool element
20 Vegetable ___
21 Sore
22 Oaf
24 Careless
26 "This ___ test"
27 Strikebreakers at a brewery?
34 "Curb Your Enthusiasm" creator
37 Different
38 By way of
39 Controversial sightings
40 Demonstrators, often
41 Grammy category
42 Budgetary waste
43 Allen who managed the Beatles and Stones
44 Farmyard noises
45 What berets cover?
48 Wee battery
49 Odorless gas
53 Declare

- 56 Comic actor Jacques
58 Words in praiseful titles
59 Track component
60 Angry looks in the hayloft?
63 Military wind
64 African herbivore
65 Lot
66 Lost traction
67 Quaker in the forest
68 Adele's brother

Down

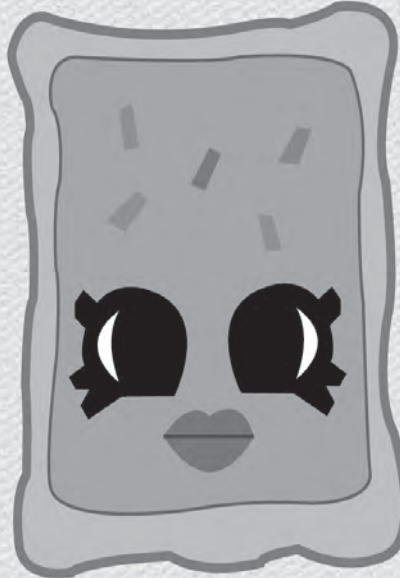
- 1 They get carried away
2 Be of use to
3 Pudding snack cup maker
4 It may come after you
5 Bone below the sacrum
6 State on the Colorado Plateau
7 Fall back (on)
8 Before, in verse
9 Doesn't care for
10 Lunch order with "special sauce"
11 "May I speak?"
12 Pro ___
13 High point
18 Flavorful
23 Cold War letters
25 Trident-shaped letters
28 Johnnycakes
29 Top story

- 30 Fine ___
31 Lady's company?
32 Take to the cleaners
33 Fifth Avenue store
34 Keister
35 Miles off
36 Suffrage, with "the"
40 Moorish palace of southern Spain
41 Sneakily seek, with "for"
43 Dodge Aries, e.g.
44 Eye-related
46 Aced
47 Shows one's feelings
50 Battling
51 "48 HRS." co-star
52 Moved carefully
53 Stray sounds?
54 Epic ___
55 Name for a poodle
56 Vacation plan
57 Diarist Frank
61 "I get it" sounds
62 Not quite right

Find the answers online at: breezejmu.org/site/crossword_answers

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TO SEE WHAT KIND OF
POPTART I AM*



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- ☼ Tunes at Noon @
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- ☼ UPB Presents
Spotlight Sounds @
Madison Union,
7-11:45 p.m.

Saturday

- ☼ FREE Brew Tour @
Brothers Craft
Brewing, 12:15-
2 p.m.

- ☼ Lantern Festival
with Valley Adopt
Kids @ Festival
Highlands Room,
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday

- ☼ JMU College Debate
Tournament @
Harrison Hall 1261,
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- ☼ Madison's
Mindfulness
Meditation @ UREC
Mind/Body Studio 2,
7-8 p.m.

Weekend Forecast

Friday

High: 38
Low: 25



Saturday

High: 38
Low: 25



Sunday

High: 38
Low: 22



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MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

Published on Thursday mornings, The Breeze is distributed throughout James Madison University and the local Harrisonburg community. Single copies of The Breeze are distributed free of charge. Additional copies are available for 50 cents by contacting our business office. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Robyn Smith, editor.



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

James Madison University has three statues on campus dedicated to the former president. Members of the Student Government Association are now working with Congress to get representation for Madison in the District of Columbia.

By **MAKENA RAFFERTY-LEWIS**
The Breeze

JMU students are now creating their own legacy through James Madison as they work to have a statue built in his honor in an outdoor space in Washington, D.C.

“I really want to do something that leaves like a lasting impression, you know, kind of like a legacy,” Matthew Mueller, a senior international affairs and political science double major and student body president, said over the summer.

Tory Atkins, JMU class of 2017 president and a senior international affairs major, and Mueller began speaking to JMU alumni, including Thomas Culligan ('05) and a former student body president who now works in D.C.

“We all started talking about the lack of a statue of James Madison outside in D.C.” Atkins said.

Although there’s a James Madison Memorial Building — a public office building — in D.C., the group agreed that more attention would be generated from a public outdoor statue.

“I worked on Capitol Hill for 10 years and I never even knew there was a Madison sculpture in the building,” Culligan said. “And if I didn’t know and I

worked right next door, students who come from out of the country on school trips and tourist and families — and I think most people in government — don’t even realize there is a Madison memorial.”

According to Culligan, the idea arose because of the upcoming bicentennial of Madison’s presidential term.

“There is really a lack of recognition of Madison’s role in forming our government,” Culligan said.

A bill was passed in the SGA senate and executive council, “calling for a life-size statue of James Madison to be erected.”

According to Mueller, the resolution calls on Congress to introduce a bill that would establish a 501(c) organization.

“The idea is [that] with having a 501(c) do it, it doesn’t get confused with the university’s own fundraising efforts, because I know the university has its own big plan for increasing our endowment as well as providing scholarships,” Mueller said. “Should they not want that to get confused with this other campaign, they could remain separate.”

Another benefit of having a 501(c) run the project is that the funds used to build the statue will come from private donors as opposed to government tax money.

“Basically this bill establishes the foundation,

in theory, if it were to pass,” Mueller said. “Our resolution calls for there to be three reserved seats on the board of directors for this foundation. There would be a seat reserved for the president of JMU, a seat reserved for a member of the SGA and a seat reserved for a representative from James Madison’s Montpelier.”

The rest of the board would consist of former congress members, experts on James Madison and others who were willing to work to raise money for the memorial.

The resolution will be sent to Rep. Bob Goodlatte, Rep. Dave Brat, Sen. Elizabeth Warner and Sen. Timothy Kaine, as they are the representatives for JMU, Montpelier and Virginia respectively.

Mueller, Atkins and Culligan all believe that this bill is likely to be proposed and passed in Congress.

According to Atkins, uncontroversial bills like this are usually passed in bulk. She said that memorials such as statues or government buildings intended to honor people are passed all at once without problem.

“It’s not crazy for a student government to be calling for something like this because people do it every day,” Atkins said.

Mueller believes that because this project will be privately funded, Congress won’t have a problem

passing the bill.

“It’s something Congress has done previously, especially ... for someone as important to our country’s history as James Madison; I think this is something that would be fairly easy for there to be bipartisan support behind,” Mueller said.

According to Atkins, a similar bill was introduced to Congress in 1989 proposing that a statue of George Mason be built in D.C. Groundbreaking for the statue occurred in 2000 and it was completed and dedicated to Mason in 2002.

Atkins believes there would be a similar timetable for this project. A key step in moving forward is gaining the public’s interest.

“All it takes on these things is a group of concerned citizens coming together,” Culligan said.

Culligan believes that JMU students taking a leadership role in this project is a great way to get it off the ground.

“It really makes me proud as an alumni to see JMU students and student government thinking on a broader scale, outside of the university, kind of on the national stage,” Culligan said.

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Sub shop gives back

Jersey Mike’s donates over six thousand to charity



LIZ STRAUSS / THE BREEZE

For the first five days that the sub shop is open, all profits will go to a charity benefiting Harrisonburg children.

By **INGRID BASHEDA**
The Breeze

The Harrisonburg Jersey Mike’s Subs made a \$6,225 donation to On the Road Collaborative, a local nonprofit organization that exposes middle schoolers to after school programs in the hope of instilling career interests in children at a young age on Wednesday evening.

When a Jersey Mike’s store opens, the new store donates its sales to a nonprofit or charity of their choosing for the first five days it’s open. The customer donates \$2 in exchange for a free sub.

“I was a part of a youth empowerment program while growing up so this means a lot to me,” Charles “Mookie” Golden, the co-owner of the Harrisonburg Jersey Mike’s shop, said.

The fundraiser gathered members of On the Road Collaborative as well as some students from Skyline Middle School, where the organization hosts its programs.

On the Road Collaborative was founded by local resident Brent Holsinger two years ago. Holsinger was previously a member of the out-of-school program Beyond the Bell before it shut down due to lack of funding, according to the On the Road Collaborative website.

“Our mission is to set middle school kids on the road to college and a career,” Holsinger said.

According to Holsinger, the program hosts ten week-long projects that focus on different careers.

Local professionals have helped teach the children about careers in real estate, law, drama, fine arts and the environment.

The after-school program works four days a week from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. during the school year. They have 15 staff members working with 100 children from Skyline.

Shaquela Corbin, an AmeriCorps service member, loves working for the program.

“The fact that [Jersey Mike’s] picked On the Road is awesome because it gets our name out there,” Corbin said.

Diane Foucar-Szocki, the coordinator for grants, contracts and special projects in the college of education at JMU, thinks that what Jersey Mike’s is doing is “fabulous.”

“The program makes such a big difference to the kids and their families,” Foucar-Szocki said. “It demonstrates the power of partnership and connection and success.”

After the donation was given to the organization on a big Jersey Mike’s Subs custom check, Holsinger joined his friends and team members, including Harrisonburg mayor and On the Road Collaborative program director Deanna Reed, in eating the store’s subs.

“It’s all about exposing middle school kids to a wide variety of career paths,” Holsinger said.

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Crossing the poverty line

Students participated in simulation depicting a month in poverty

By **MADISSON HAYNES**
The Breeze

There were single mothers and fathers, grandparents raising children and even siblings caring for one another. Each family was different, but they all faced a similar conflict: poverty.

Circled in multiple groups, students from different majors became part of a simulated family on Tuesday in Festival’s ballroom.

“What resonated as the most important lesson granted to me was that those in poverty are often some of the hardest working individuals in our country,” Jessica Wirtanen, a senior health sciences major and first year occupational therapy student, said.

Wirtanen was one of the many who attended the Life in the State of Poverty simulation. The event was mandatory for her class for the OT program, but she believes it was worth it.

The simulated families were diverse with individual detailed descriptions of income levels and finances. The students had a simple goal: survive the month, which was shortened into a few hours.

In order to do this, the students had a list of requirements to perform: keep your home secure, buy the required amount of food each week, keep your utilities on and keep your school-age children in each school.



CASSIDY HARVEY / THE BREEZE

The simulated experience allowed students to personally relate to poverty.

“Interprofessional decisions means none of us can do it alone, but together, we can change,” Emily Akerson, coordinator for Clinical and Interprofessional Initiatives Institute for Health and Human services, said.

Akerson, who helped coordinate the poverty simulation, believes that teaching others about poverty and the large population living in it, could spark a change.

The JMU Health and Human Services program has

see **POVERTY**, page 4

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POVERTY

| 120 students and 30 volunteers participated in poverty simulation



The poverty simulation allows students to experience a month of life in poverty in the span of a few hours. The coordinators hope to spark productive conversation on how to address the issues impoverished people face after the event.

■ In Virginia, 10.3 percent of people receive an income below the poverty level

■ 1-in-3 Harrisonburg residents alone are facing the same low-income levels

according to
harrisonburgva.gov

CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE

from page 3

hosted the Life in the State of Poverty simulation for 16 years, and Akerson believes that the simulation allowed students to walk in the shoes of people facing poverty.

The walls of the ballroom were lined with establishments such as a pawn shop, a grocery store and a police department. The students had to learn how to provide for their families with what little they had. Officers from the Harrisonburg Police Department came to the poverty simulation and acted as the police unit at the event. 120 students and 30 volunteers participated as well.

Akerson believes that by working together, the students not only came to a deeper understanding of poverty not shown on social

media, but also learned how to work together as a team and family.

The ballroom was transformed: it became an eye-opening display of the real frustrations of everyday life faced by impoverished people. “I assumed that the activity would be manageable, and that the overall depiction of living in a low socioeconomic status would be skewed so that few walked away with an accurate representation of the true struggles many endure in the community around us,” Wirtanen said.

After the simulation, Wirtanen had a different perspective. “I found myself frustrated by the lengthy waiting times and rejection by various agencies offering [‘relief’] from poverty, a reality that is all too familiar to those earning a less than optimal wage for family needs,” she said in an email.

As the simulation came to a close, Wirtanen found herself thinking differently about those in poverty and realized that more and more people are facing it.

Wirtanen recognized that more of the middle class is in encroaching poverty, and many of those descending continue to, regardless of their efforts.

Mary Copeland, a senior health sciences and justice studies double major, was excited for the simulation, but nervous for the events to come. Copeland anticipated the event would open her up to the reality of poverty.

The simulation presented the many faces of poverty, and some participants realized they have experienced similar situations in their own lives.

Copeland’s views on poverty did change after the simulation, and she hopes to look back on her experience and recognize that not everyone has to look like they’re living in poverty.

“Even if they seem to have it all together, everyone is experiencing some kind of stressor, whether it be financial, familial, social, anything really,” Copeland said.

She believes that the simulation won’t only affect her professional life, but also her day-to-day experiences.

“As I encounter people from all different socioeconomic statuses and backgrounds, I hope to look back to this experience and remember that you never know the struggles someone is facing,” Copeland said.

Copeland believes that living in poverty in a simulated experience created more of a personal experience for her, and will help her better understand the population as a whole.

“As a future healthcare provider, the population we will work with often includes individuals of low socioeconomic backgrounds,” she said. “So being knowledgeable about the experiences these people have, even if only for an hour, can improve our ability to provide services and advocate for their needs.”

The poverty simulation represented many different family types and income levels. It taught students ways to identify with families facing similar situations, and created a space where everyone could learn.

“We believe that we can better address the issues and the needs of persons affected by poverty if we gain a greater understanding of life in a state of poverty and the confusion, defeat, frustration, exhaustion and despair in the poor experience,” Akerson said.

As the simulation came to a close, Akerson quoted Margaret Mead, a cultural anthropologist.

The quote lit a spark in the students that filled the room. As they listened intently, the manifestation of the words showed through their being.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world,” Akerson said. “Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

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As student journalists, we take freedom of the press seriously. It's absolutely crucial for the media to have a direct line of communication with the government in order for the people to be informed.

It seems as though President Trump has been trying to bar that communication in a variety of ways. He yelled "fake news!" at CNN reporter and JMU alumnus Jim Acosta before he took the oath of office. He refused to answer Acosta's question, claiming that CNN's story about Trump's alleged ties to Russia was false and the organization was "terrible." His post-inauguration attitude toward the press isn't much different.

Beyond cherry picking which news organizations he speaks to, Trump and his administration ordered federal agencies to stop any public communication through "news releases, official social media accounts and correspondence." These instructions targeted the Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Interior, Commerce and Health and

Human Services. A previous communication ban on the Department of Agriculture was lifted yesterday.

Censorship isn't an option. We shouldn't become a nation that arrests journalists for doing their jobs. Six were arrested at Trump's inauguration while covering the protests. They could face up to 10 years in jail. We value the people's right to know what's going on, and if we rely on the government for our news and information, we may as well give up our First Amendment freedoms.

Our university's namesake and the other founding fathers specifically included the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment to ensure certain freedoms — like that of the press — would be protected.

We, as journalists, are watchdogs, and we must continue fulfilling this role even if the administration trades transparency for opacity. If those who hold people in power accountable are kept from doing their jobs, the potential corruption is unthinkable.

"If we rely on the government for our news and information, we may as well give up our First Amendment freedoms."

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Best of both worlds

The case for regularly reading opposing political views



CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE



Breitbart technology editor Milo Yiannopoulos was on comedian Joe Rogan's podcast when he outlined some context as to the birth of the New Right and Trumpism.

He said to Rogan, "If you are a dissident, if you believe in pushing boundaries, you have to be a conservative." Yiannopoulos further said, "the right didn't win any arguments. The left just got overconfident and got carried away and alienated the rest of us." He said this in reference to the left's overemphasis on "political correctness" and moral "nannying."

Yiannopoulos has arguably become a new star in right-wing political culture, essentially the millennial Ann Coulter and is a person every liberal ought to listen to, even if some of his stances on abortion, immigration, economics and religion may sound like metal rakes on chalkboards to them. Alternatively, conservatives ought to listen to The Young Turks and Bill Maher, even as the mere mention of the names causes them to break out into poison ivy-like rashes.

Yet the point is not to agree with Yiannopoulos or The Young Turks, but, rather, to gauge the sources of their argumentation on particular positions and ultimately immerse ourselves in perspectives we are often told to demonize.

Abortion tends to be one of the issues on which both liberals and conservatives draw clear lines, so I decided to take a look at how Breitbart and The Huffington Post, the Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier of the political ring, facilitate conversation on the issue. Personally, I see myself on the progressive political spectrum, supporting policies on universal health coverage, local investment, renewable energy promotion and, yes, a woman's right to have an abortion. Thus, heading into the dragon's den of Breitbart.com became akin to swallowing hot rocks in terms of intestinal distress.

One of the headline articles was "Five facts about Trump's Reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy" by Susan Berry, pertaining to President Trump's reinstatement of a Reagan-era executive act. The "Mexico City Policy" prohibits non-governmental organizations from using U.S. funds provide or promote abortion in foreign countries. Apart from

the history of the executive act and what kinds of organizations it affects, the article mentioned that the policy doesn't completely prohibit the use of birth control overseas.

Yet, from my own progressive experience, I noticed that the article omitted some facts. For example, according to Time Magazine, when the policy was last enacted in 2001 there was actually an increase in abortion in places like sub-Saharan Africa due to a lack of contraception access. Nonetheless, I applaud the fact that Berry included statements from NARAL and Planned Parenthood that condemned the policy as Donald Trump turning "his anti-woman rhetoric into policy."

However, the rest of the article ended up being saturated by applause from anti-abortion advocates such as the Family Research Council, who praised the policy as ensuring that Americans "no longer be complicit in violating the dignity of women and children overseas."

I admit I'm closer to The Huffington Post's political leanings than Breitbart, though I'll never forgive them for giving Trump a 1.8 percent chance of victory. Its article on the Mexico City Policy titled "Donald Trump

Signs Anti-Abortion Executive Order Surrounded By Men" by Amanda Terkel made its stance clear through the headline. The article is skimpier than Berry's and makes several points Berry forgoes, particularly how the Mexico City policy can increase the rate of unsafe abortions. What's notable about Terkel's article is that it draws attention to the "whiteness and maleness" of Trump's cabinet a total of four times, something that Berry also does not mention.

A personal hero of mine, John Waters, said, "Find out how people who don't believe in anything you believe in, the smart ones, how they write 'cause then you can learn how to fight them." As a proponent of greater inter-ideological discourse across our culture, it never hurts understand the mindsets of those we don't agree with, even with the little "bias" voice jack-hammering our heads. Ad hominem attacks are almost always regressive in terms of giving weight to one's argumentation, and perhaps diving into the brains of our political "opponents" may curb our country's addiction to insulting one another.

Armin Haracic is a senior political science major. Contact Armin at haracix@dukes.jmu.edu.



DARTS & PATS

A **"thank-you-for-everything"** pat to JMU's survivor advocate Liz Howley, who'll be undoubtedly amazing at her new job at Bridgewater.

From your very grateful CARE exec and GA.

A **"keep-doing-you"** pat to the Artful Dodger for always being there.

From a regular who looks forward to Tuesday nights.

A **"chill-out"** dart to the RA who writes up her entire hall whenever she has a mood swing.

From a student living on campus who thinks it's time to grow up.

A **"nice-to-see-you-again"** pat to the sun for finally making an appearance.

From a lady who needs her Vitamin D.

A **"hang-in-there"** pat to the girl on Mason Street whose car window got bashed in. I can't imagine how you feel.

From a senior who walked by you and could only muster an "uh-oh."

An **"I'll-miss-you"** pat to the lonely senior.

From a student who's happy you're not lonely anymore, but will miss your weekly musings.

SPENCER MUNSON | organized ramblings

Cabinet corruption



Donald Trump’s cabinet and his administration as a whole are looking like one of the most conflicted and systematically corrupt in recent history. One of the infamous rallying points of Trump’s campaign for the past year has been his claim to “drain the swamp.” The president used this appealing and easily promotable phrase to perpetuate his campaign’s proclamation that Hillary Clinton was a corrupt politician. The Trump campaign portrayed Clinton as the ultimate representation of everything wrong with Washington, D.C.: the culmination of corruption, close relationships with Wall Street and politics driven by donations and personal contributions. Clinton was portrayed as a rich politician who had a fundamental misunderstanding of what it was like to be a hard-working, blue-collar American. This tactic showed her as unreliable, but, more importantly, it drew attention away from the undeniable fact that Trump himself knows nothing about being a blue-collar “common man.” And now that Trump’s in office, he’s proved he doesn’t care about the needs of the average American family. 39 percent of the 119 people whom Trump interviewed for his cabinet were campaign donors, and 38 percent of those 119 he eventually chose. The president’s cabinet picks were unfortunately by no means resistant to donors and major contributors. In fact, six members of Trump’s cabinet

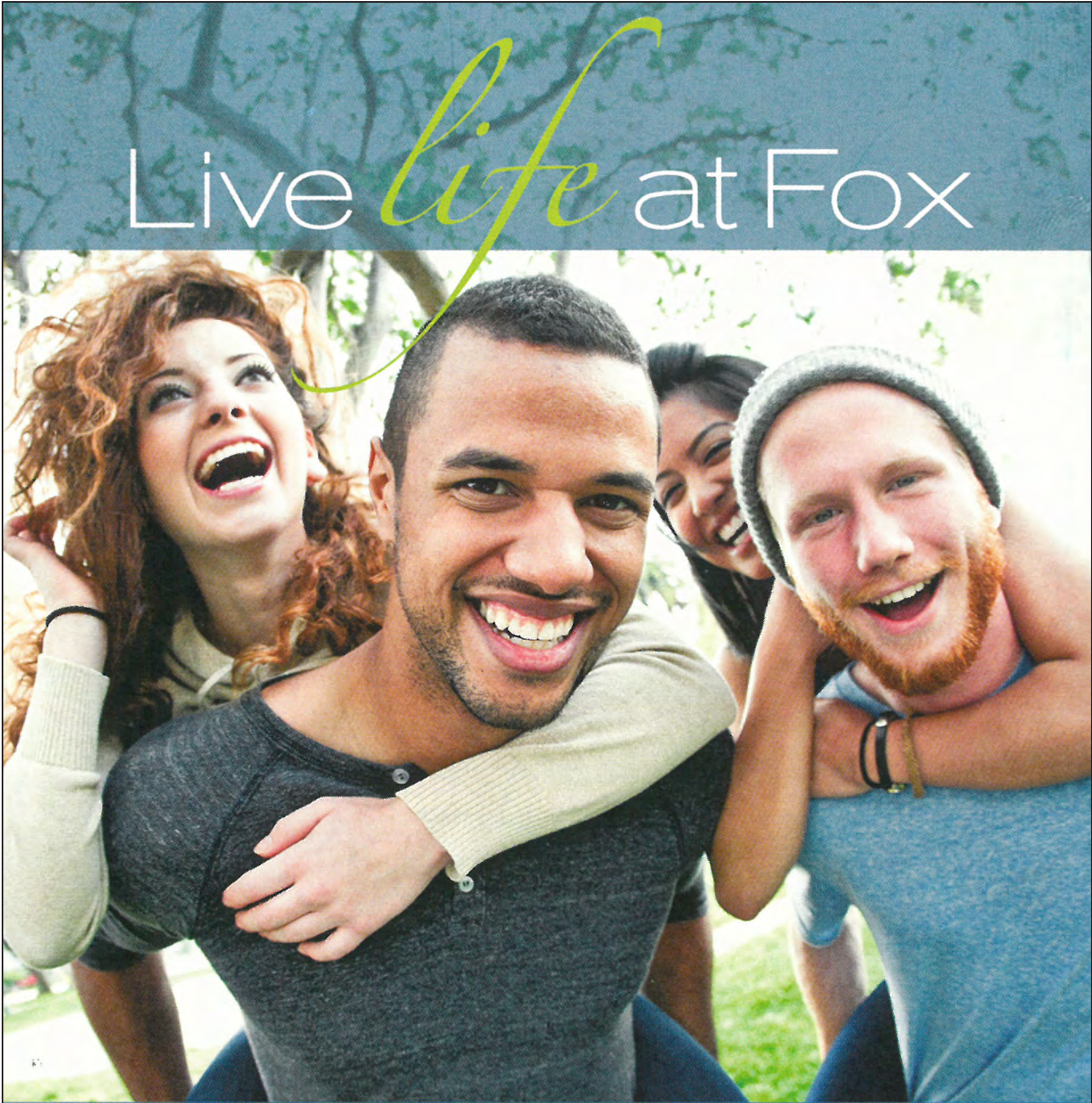
were the largest donors to his campaign. A closer look at the alligators in question does little to put the average American’s mind at ease. Trump’s choice for secretary of state, former CEO of ExxonMobil Rex Tillerson, has an estimated net worth of \$150 million. At Tillerson’s confirmation, Exxon awarded him a pay package worth about \$180 million. Tillerson’s no rookie when it comes to intense government lobbying — he’s served on three separate boards that have spent a combined total of \$368 million on lobbying alone. President Trump also made headlines when he chose to nominate Linda McMahon as his small business administrator. McMahon — while not explicitly qualified for the position — surely helped her case for a spot on Trump’s team when she established herself as Trump’s third-largest financial supporter, donating \$7.5 million to his campaign. Trump’s choice for secretary of education, Betsy DeVos, showed the country during her Jan. 18 hearing that she has close to no understanding of the U.S. education system and barely understands the definitions of proficiency and growth. DeVos’ nomination for secretary of education might be more easily explained by a different qualification: the \$1.8 million her family donated to the party and to Trump’s campaign. As mentioned earlier, Trump spent a great deal of his campaign accusing Clinton of being “owned” by Wall Street. This accusation resonated greatly with Americans and partially opened up scars from the 2008 recession. It should then come as no surprise that Trump’s cabinet could easily be mistaken for a Goldman Sachs reunion party.

Trump has named Anthony Scaramucci, his top donor, former employee of Goldman Sachs and staunch defender of big banks as his senior White House Adviser. Former Goldman employee Dina Powell will serve as senior counselor for economic initiatives. Other administration nominees who formerly worked at Goldman Sachs include Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, National Economic Council Chairman Gary Cohn and SEC chairman Jay Clayton. It seems as though the wolves have been put in charge of protecting the sheep. The choices are so absurd, corrupt and full of conflicts of interest that it’s tempting to kick back and just laugh as the integrity of the process is annihilated. Unfortunately, we don’t have that luxury because very soon these people are going to be running this country, not only with their influential financial resources, but their legal ability to alter laws to benefit themselves, their companies and their cronies. Trump has proved that he doesn’t care about the average American and, frankly, he’s proved that if you can’t offer him a significant amount of money, you don’t have much of a say in his America. We can’t let corruption of this magnitude occur right in front of our eyes. We have to express our disapproval and tell Congress to block as many of the nominees as possible, or we run the risk of losing our voice in this country.

Spencer Munson is a senior management major. Contact Spencer at munsonsc@dukesjmu.edu.




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A true engineer

Harrisonburg native runs local recording haven Blue Sprocket after working with industry legends



CASSIDY HARVEY / THE BREEZE

Chris Jackson, a native of Harrisonburg, has been interested in music production and sound engineering since he was in middle school. After spending time immersed in the music scene in Tennessee, he came back home to open his own studio.

By KEVIN PAINTER
The Breeze

Outside of the music community, many Harrisonburg residents have no idea that a professional recording studio with a live room large enough to fit an orchestra exists right in their backyard.

Blue Sprocket Sound is a recording studio and audio production company located on Miller Circle directly in front of Funky's Skate Center. It was brought to life by Chris Jackson, a Harrisonburg-born recording engineer whose experiences in the music industry combined with a fair amount of chance led him to start his own business.

Jackson's passion for record engineering wasn't realized until he started playing in bands in middle and high school.

He ended up joining a band with someone who owned a multitrack recorder and fell in love with it. He made a deal with his mother that if he received good grades in school, she would buy him a multitrack recorder of his own.

"I got some of the best grades I've ever gotten in my life," Jackson said. "That started the saga of me trying to make decent sounding recordings with this crappy multitrack tape recorder and two RadioShack mics."

Jackson decided to attend JMU after graduating high school but ended up staying for only one year. While attending, he started doing sound for venues around town and recording for bands.

"I decided it was way more fun than waking up at 8 a.m. for a poli-sci class, so I moved to Nashville," Jackson said.

Once Jackson arrived in Nashville, Tennessee, he started attending networking events with people in the industry, where he eventually met the man who would change his life forever: Dave Piechura.

When the two first met, Jackson realized that Piechura recently moved into the apartment directly behind his. Piechura had moved to Nashville for a job at Vintage King Audio, which sold equipment to Martina McBride's husband, John McBride.

McBride was building a recording complex that would eventually become the famous Blackbird Studio, which has now produced for big names like Taylor Swift and Bruce Springsteen. Piechura introduced Jackson to the studio manager of Blackbird at the time, four-time

Grammy award winner Vance Powell. Powell took a liking to Jackson, and gave him an internship at Blackbird.

Piechura also introduced him to a man named Tracy Korby, who gave Jackson a job with his company, Korby Audio Technologies. Over the years, Jackson had learned how to solder, meaning he could melt metals together. He used this skill to make microphone cables.

From this point on, things escalated quickly.

"I kept working my way up, and eventually I was one of the staff techs, so I would be working on Telefunken U47s and ELA-M 251Es," Jackson said. "We are talking about some of the most beautiful sounding microphones ever made."

On top of giving Jackson the chance to work with the best microphones money could buy, his job as a staff tech and his internship with Blackbird also gave him the chance to be surrounded by some of the best sound engineers in the business.

"Vance would have these pool parties at his house, and you would have people like Richard Dodd, who did the Tom Petty records, and so many cool guys in the industry just there hanging out and talking," Jackson said.

After spending some time in Nashville, Jackson decided it wasn't the place for him. He contemplated moving to other big cities like San Francisco or Atlanta, but he saw something special in the city he used to call home.

"I still had family in this area, and I would find that anytime I would come back to visit, there was something new and cool going on downtown," Jackson said.

After moving back to Harrisonburg, Jackson started recording for bands again. He'd travel with bands to bigger studios to do the things he couldn't in his own studio, then return to Harrisonburg and finish the projects in his small mixing studio. During this time, he got married and had a child. Traveling extensively and having clients visit his home studio became less feasible with a family, so he began contemplating alternatives.

In response to this dilemma, Jackson started crafting plans for a studio that would eventually become Blue Sprocket Sound.

"I partnered with a group of guys, one of whom was also from the

area, but also lived in Nashville and worked as a professional drummer," Jackson said. "I chatted with some other guys [who] had publishing contracts and still lived in this area, and just picked people's brains about what a room or a facility that would serve our needs and a serve our local music community would look like."

They began construction based on Jackson's designs. He used his extensive experience with multiple studios to pick and choose what he liked and what "drove him nuts."

Construction itself took around two months — longer than expected — but Blue Sprocket Sound finally opened its doors in 2013.

Having to open Blue Sprocket late caused a lot of stress for Jackson, which quickly dissipated once he got his first job doing sound engineering for The Dawn Drapes debut release, "She."

The Dawn Drapes heard about the new studio through a local news article, and immediately decided to work with him on the record after talking to him.

"He really gave us a good feeling and fostered the project we were working on very well," Daniel Rice, Eggy Gorman and Michael Santo of the Dawn Drapes said in an email. "We were both in a good place to benefit each other mutually too, as Sprocket was brand new to the area and we had been around the local music scene for a bit."

"She" ended up being exactly what Blue Sprocket needed to start gaining attention within the local music community.

"That was the first stamp for this facility, and things only got better from there," Jackson said.

Moving forward, Blue Sprocket worked on projects with more local acts, as well as national acts from areas like Las Vegas and Asheville, North Carolina.

Moving forward, Jackson hopes to make Harrisonburg and Blue Sprocket Sounds well-known on a national scale.

"The future for us is I'm hoping just to help continue to foster this local music scene," Jackson said. "But also make this area more well known outside the people that have been here, and I think we are moving in that direction."

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Hola, Migos



CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE

Migos, a hip-hop group named after the Spanish word "Amigos," is making it into the music scene and has appeared on the show "Atlanta."

By MATTHEW CALLAHAN
The Breeze

Whether or not you know, Migos is all around you. Whenever you hear the trio's hit song "Bad and Boujee," or see someone dab, you experience an echo of Migos' cultural influence.

The Atlanta trap trio banded together when they were just teenagers and have since grown into cultural behemoths. Composed of three members (Quavo, Offset and Takeoff), Migos is a family affair; Quavo is Takeoff's uncle and Offset's cousin. Migos first started popping after the single "Versace," which placed on the Billboard Top 100 list in, and also received a popular remix by Drake.

Since then, the group has released four mixtapes, an album and popularized a dance move. The dab is so popular that I don't have to describe what it is. It seems like you can't watch a professional sports game or go to a party without seeing someone dab at least once. The dance wouldn't be as omnipresent if it wasn't for Migos, whose personal goal is to bring the dab to the masses. It started as a dance that was popular in Atlanta, but through mentioning it in lyrics, naming songs after it ("Look at my Dab") and, of course, performing the dance wherever they go, Migos got the people dabbin' coast to coast.

Another major contribution to hip-hop is Migos' signature flow. The style, otherwise known as triplet flow, groups each line into three syllable stanzas, and can be heard in many of its songs. It's been copied by the likes of Drake, Kanye West, Young Thug and J. Cole.

Donald Glover pushed Migos further into the cultural consciousness at the Golden Globes. When his show, "Atlanta," won Best Comedy TV series, he kept his acceptance speech short. He thanked Migos for making "Bad and Boujee," which he called "the best song ever." The song climbed to No. 1 on the Billboard Top 100 shortly after.

But everything they've done so far has been "a warm up" according to Quavo. "It was all leading up to this," he said referring to "CULTURE," the group's upcoming album. He says that Migos has been contributing so much to hip-hop and popular culture that it was time for the trio to claim those contributions.

So Migos has been creating the culture, and on Jan. 27, when "CULTURE" drops, that impact will be solidified. Four singles from the album have been released. One single, "T-Shirt," already has a music video, and it might be one of the best of the year. Co-directed by Quavo, it features the trio in the snowy woods, adorned in fur coats and lots of jewelry; they are presented as "trappers," both in the sense that they are fur trappers and the Atlanta slang for drug dealers. They put a Pyrex bowl, commonly used for cooking crack, on a campfire in a stroke of directorial genius. It bridges the fantasy world they're playing in and the real life they escaped, foregoing cooking crack to, instead, cook up heat in the studio. And nothing tickles me more than seeing someone wearing thousands of dollars worth of diamonds shooting a bow and arrow.

"CULTURE" features big names like 2 Chainz, Lil Uzi Vert and others that haven't been announced. If it isn't already, Migos is about to be a household name, and many are expected to hop on with the hype.

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“Split,” a psychological thriller, features Kevin (James McAvoy), who suffers form Dissociative Identity Disorder. “Dennis,” one of his 23 different personalities, kidnaps a group of teenage girls who eventually learn of his nature.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

M. Night Shyamalan wrote and directed “Split.” Known for his array of thrillers and plot twists, “Split” is a thematic sequel to his 2000 film “Unbreakable.”

By YAITZA LOPEZ
contributing writer

“Split”
★★★★☆
PG-13 117 min.
Starring James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Haley Lu Richardson

Within the first few minutes of “Split,” the film immediately begins with a tense, thrilling scene that gets under your skin, just like most M. Night Shyamalan films. The movie starts out with a deranged man named Kevin Wendell Crumb (played by James McAvoy) who abducts three girls as they leave a classmate’s birthday party. From there, he locks them up and warns them that something special is in store. As the movie goes on, the girls eventually discover that Kevin holds many different personalities. To be exact, 23 different personalities exhibited by McAvoy’s character.

McAvoy’s performance in “Split” is one of his best performances in his career. By shifting from one persona to another, he binds the movie together in a dark, intense way. His personas, which include Dennis, an uptight and dominant personality; Patricia, a British women; Hedwig, a nine-year-old boy with a lisp; and Barry, a flamboyant fashion designer, are some of the few personalities we see throughout the movie. As the movie progresses, it’s possible for viewers to determine which personality is in control simply by the nuances of McAvoy’s body and verbal language, and the

performances begin to become even more proficient throughout the scenes in which he shifts from one personality to another.

The film has without a doubt raised controversy on whether or not the movie correctly shows the effects of mental illnesses, as McAvoy is portraying an individual with Dissociative Identity Disorder. When the trailer was first released, mental health advocates and the LGBTQ+ community criticized how the movie represented DID and as to why one of the personalities, as the film’s trailer refers to it as, “The Beast,” appears to be seen as a monster-like creature when unleashed.

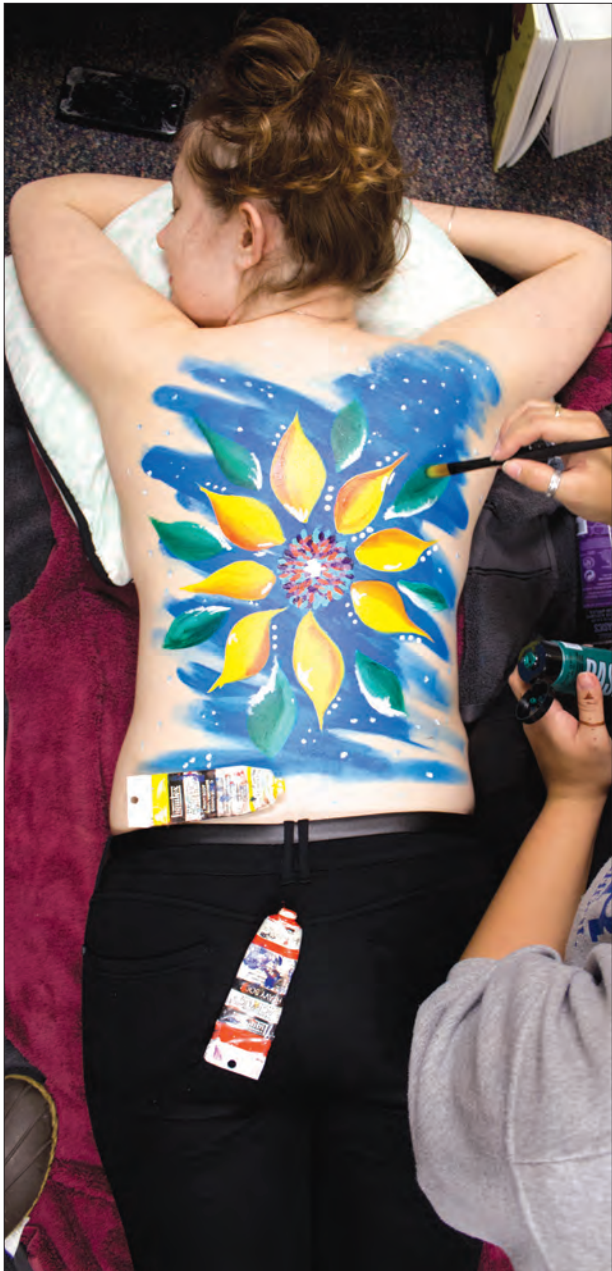
To be fair, “Split” seemed to focus more on psychological trauma and abuse as we learn that both McAvoy’s and Taylor-Joy’s character’s share a dark past. Despite the movie’s ludicrous proposition of “The Beast,” McAvoy does a fearless job of selling his character’s diverse personae. There’s even a moment toward the end of the movie where he cycles between different personae in one jaw-dropping scene.

As a psychological thriller, “Split” has an unexpected and satisfying ending. The final scene of the movie was like connecting the last puzzle piece of a board game, one you didn’t even know you were missing. For many Shyamalan film fans, the ending will be extremely fulfilling, to others, it might just fly over their heads. Overall, “Split” is definitely a movie for all types of personalities.

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BACK

Student puts personal meaning into each of her subjects' back art



PHOTOS BY CHELSEA GLOWACKI / THE BREEZE

LEFT Askin poses with her subject. RIGHT Backs offer a relatively flat surface for Askin's art. She uses the contours of her subject's back to add depth.

from front

“She just picked a design out of thin air,” Hill said. “It was really fun and afterwards we did a little photoshoot. I thought it looked amazing. Honestly, it was astounding how she could create something like a moving canvas.”

Although Askin loves the look of the back paintings, she finds that the primary downside is that the designs wash or peel off later, even though each takes approximately one to two hours, depending on the design’s complexity. However, taking pictures is one way Askin can preserve her work, which is why working with Hill — who also has an interest in photography — makes the process more permanent.

“When I first started doing them three years ago, I literally had them lying on the floor, and I would just take photos of them,” Askin said. “I have the artist’s view on things

and she has the photography aesthetic.”

Although photography is one way Askin preserves her artwork, she also occasionally repaints them on more permanent surfaces. “I’ll do [a back painting], and then later I’ll like it so much I have to put it on a canvas,” Askin said. “It’s kind of like tattoos, but I can’t do tattoos — that’s my brother’s thing.”

Askin’s paintings are often influenced by the particular shapes of people’s backs, creating designs that match the flow of different silhouettes. This idea was especially present in a painting of the sun and moon she did for a friend last year.

“He was really fit so he had a dorito-shaped back, where he had heavy shoulders and a slim waist,” Askin said. “It worked on it because the design went in with his body shape.”

A lot of Askin’s spare time is spent pursuing sketching and painting. Askin specifically wants to bring attention to

unique art forms at JMU, where she feels there isn’t always a heavy presence. She does this by showing her work to friends and posting pictures of her back paintings on Instagram.

While each design is her own, she also likes to take the personality of the person she’s working with into account. Her designs have ranged from galaxies, Mandala paintings — which look similar to henna designs — a set of wings and a variety of animals, each corresponding to the model she’s painting at the time.

“I like to do a person’s piece that either comes from myself or comes from them,” Askin said. “I don’t like to just take something from the internet and put it on your back, I like to have meaning to that person.”

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COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

JMU men's tennis leans heavily on the talent of senior Sebastian Salinas. Despite his 5-6 record in the fall, he expects a strong spring season ahead of him.

By **JAKE BROD**
The Breeze

A disappointing loss to the College of Charleston in the Colonial Athletic Association quarterfinals wasn't what the JMU men's tennis team had in mind to end the 2015-16 season. Despite last year's agony, the team gained some valuable experience as they begin the 2017 spring season.

"I think that loss gave the guys that are coming back the knowledge that they can compete with any team," head coach Steve Secord said.

JMU enters the spring dual season with a unique roster of both rookie and veteran players. The Dukes' lineup consists of four freshmen, a junior transfer and four seniors. Spearheading the youth movement is freshman Paul Mendoza, who's quickly asserted his dominance on the court. Mendoza finished the fall season with a 7-3 singles record, good for most singles wins on the team.

While Mendoza has impressed in singles play, he's turned even more heads playing alongside freshman teammate Tate Steinour in doubles. The youthful duo amassed an 8-1 doubles record in the fall, including a victory at the Flight B Doubles title in the Southern Exposure Sunrooms Seahawk Fall Invitational last September. The pair's success at JMU has been over a decade in the making.

"I'm not sure a lot of people know this, but we've actually known each other since we were six or seven years old," Mendoza said. "We both grew up in the same area and we've known each other for a long time."

Secord said that he was "not sure" if Mendoza and Steinour

would continue to be paired up for the spring season.

Parlayed with the exciting potential of the freshmen is the experience of the four senior players. Leading the team into the dual season is Sebastian Salinas, who earned a 5-6 singles record in the fall. The Merida, Mexico, native draws the tough task of facing off against some of the opposition's best talent every time he takes the court. Salinas — who's been team captain for the past two seasons — has accepted an even larger role this season given the team's dynamic.

"I feel some pressure to win some matches," Salinas said. "Each match is my last match against each school. I also want to show the freshmen how tough matches can be and show them that the level is there."

The Dukes have plenty of on-court talent, but the senior believes that intangibles will dictate just how far the team is able to go this season.

"I think the biggest thing is going to be mental toughness," Salinas said. "We need to give everything we've got in every match, because if not, it's really hard to win with just talent."

The Dukes currently sit at 1-1 overall and will be back on the court this Friday when they take on George Mason University at a neutral venue in Midlothian, Virginia.

"We're really looking forward to the spring, particularly the conference matches," Secord said. "We'll give ourselves the best opportunity to be seeded as high as possible in the tournament, because I think the guys feel like they can beat any of the teams in the conference."

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LAX | Rule change creates more competitive second half

from front

"I think the shot clock is going to take away the possession game," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "It was becoming a tactic that was being used throughout the entire game instead of just the end of the game."

This priority for possession started taking over the final minute or two of play, but then grew to controlling the final 10 to 15 minutes of play. In last year's women's lacrosse national semifinal, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill stalled for the majority of the final seven minutes while clinging to a one-goal advantage. This eventually worked and later that week, they won the national championship.

But how does the shot clock affect the Dukes?

"I'm pretty excited about it," senior attacker Leah Monticello said. "Our team is a fast-paced team, so I don't see it affecting us that much. Teams in our conference use the clock to their advantage, so it's going to be an advantage for us overall."

Monticello was selected to the Preseason All-CAA Team and will look to bounce back after suffering a season-ending knee injury six games into her 2016 season. Being on the attack, Monticello mentioned taking more reps in practice and the team playing as fast

paced as they can.

Aside from Monticello, the Dukes return junior midfielder Haley Warden, who earned a Preseason All-American honorable mention. Last year, Warden made 16 of 20 starts and seemed to play her best in the CAA tournament, when it mattered most. She also sees the possession clock as an opportunity for the Dukes to separate themselves among the pack in the CAA.

"It opens up more opportunities for every team," Warden said. "Transitions will be quicker, but we are a pretty fast team. Seeing what other CAA teams bring to the table will be interesting."

Aside from presumably more shots on goal and a more exciting game, the possession clock also comes with some managerial adjustments.

"It's also going to create a need for fitness and for subbing," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "In practice, you can't just have open ended drills. It will also emphasize the importance of goaltending."

JMU opens its season in Chapel Hill against the defending national champion Tar Heels and the 90-second possession clock will be in full swing. The game is scheduled for Feb. 4 at noon.

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CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

Junior midfielder Elena Romesburg drives by a pair of Virginia Tech defenders during a game last season. The Dukes won 18-5.

GET OFF THE BENCH



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DOUBLE

TAKE

Is Tom Brady the greatest quarterback of all time?



COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

By CATIE HARPER
contributing writer

The NFL has seen its fair share of good quarterbacks in the 96 years that it's been in commission. Ever since the beginning, endless time has been spent debating who stands out among the rest. Names like Joe Montana, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady are usually the ones people agree to be the top three, with each one boasting strong arguments why they're the best. Throughout this past season, all the talk has been that Brady's the best of the three. However, there's still no way to say he's better than Manning or Montana.

The main argument made for Brady is that he has four Super Bowl rings to his name, with the opportunity to win his fifth on Feb. 5, which would tie the all-time record. However, it's important to keep in mind that Brady isn't the only quarterback with four rings. Montana has four of his own, and he also has just as many Super Bowl MVP awards as Brady: three. Based on that fact, it can't be said that Brady is the best solely based on Super Bowl wins.

Moreover, if it wasn't for the tuck rule, which overturned a call that Brady fumbled in the 2001 AFC divisional playoff game, and cornerback Malcolm

Butler's goal line interception in Super Bowl XLIX, there's a good chance that Brady would only be a two-time champion. Something like Butler's interception also shows that Super Bowls can't be credited to just one player. To win a championship, you need a whole team.

When looking at Brady's stats since he entered the league in 2000, there's no doubt they're impressive, but, they still don't rank over Manning. Over his career, Brady has collected 61,582 passing yards and 456 touchdowns, which falls short of Manning's 71,940 passing yards and 539 passing touchdowns, both of which are NFL records. Even putting Manning aside, Brady doesn't lead active players in passing yards. That title belongs to Drew Brees.

There's no denying that Brady is a great quarterback and is one of the best to play the game. However, he isn't the absolute best. If he lasts a few more years and continues to perform the way he did this past season, then he may very well become the best. Right now, there isn't a way to clearly give him the edge over players like Manning and Montana.

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By HARRY HOLTZCLAW
The Breeze

Defenses hate him. The AFC hates him. Roger Goodell hates him. I hate him. You guessed it, Tom Brady. But one must respect what Brady, who's about to play in his seventh Super Bowl, has done throughout his career. Brady has become unarguably the best quarterback of all-time, putting up stats that will stand alone at the top for a long time.

The 39-year-old signal caller just finished his abbreviated season (due to suspension) with a touchdown-to-interception ratio of 28-2. To put that into perspective, all-time greats Peyton Manning and Brett Favre posted 9-16 and 22-22 ratios in their age-39 seasons, respectively. Brady blows them out of the water. The career Patriot has led the league in passing touchdowns four times, has never thrown more than 15 interceptions in a season, and led New England to four Super Bowl victories while accumulating three Super Bowl MVPs. There are 26 franchises in the NFL that don't have four Super Bowl rings, yet Brady has four in his 15-year career.

Many love to stick with Joe Montana as their No. 1 quarterback of all time, but Montana's stats, duration and accolades don't come close to Brady's. 456

touchdowns and only 152 interceptions in 15 years are mind blowing numbers. These numbers would be higher if he didn't miss 15 games in the 2008 season due to a season-ending knee injury in his first game. Montana's 273 touchdowns to 139 interceptions seem miniscule when chalked up next to Brady's, but so do everybody else's.

Doing it in the regular season is one thing, but Brady has excelled in the postseason too. En route to his handful (almost literally) of Super Bowl rings, Brady has thrown 61 touchdowns to just 30 interceptions in the playoffs while completing 62.4 percent of his passes. These numbers are far from ordinary and are against the top teams in the league, in the biggest moments and under the toughest conditions.

The scariest part of all of these numbers that seem like video game stats: he isn't slowing down. Many would think that this is the "back-end of his career," however, he's led the Patriots to six straight AFC championship games and four over the last five years. We can hate the man all we want, but everyone must swallow the hate and admire the greatest quarterback to ever live in Brady.

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Rowe, Dukes

see brighter

future



JAMES ALLEN / THE BREEZE

JMU men's basketball is just 6-15 in Louis Rowe's first season in charge, but the team has a strong recruiting class.

By JACK FITZPATRICK
The Breeze

To start the year, men's basketball head coach Louis Rowe had fairly high expectations surrounding him. Coming off the eight-year tenure of former head coach Matt Brady during which the Dukes saw success, most notably an NCAA tournament berth just three seasons ago, the pressure was evident.

Rowe came into this season with a stark contrast in philosophy from Brady that caused a learning curve for the players, but it's provided a vital stepping stone for what Rowe wants in his future at JMU.

"He's made great adjustments with this team to cater to their strengths and try the best to minimize their weaknesses," assistant coach Mike Deane said. "As a result I don't think we are that far away from being a good team."

Rowe inherited a veteran team that had all been hand-picked and coached by Brady to fit his exact style of play, a ball control heavy offense.

Despite the Dukes (6-15) sitting at 4-4 in the Colonial Athletic Association and senior forward Yohanny Dalember out for the season for medical reasons, next season is looking bright with some of Rowe's recruiting efforts.

The program has four commits for next year. Zach Jacobs and Greg Jones will provide the Dukes with two small forwards to help fill the absences of senior guards Shakir Brown and Jackson Kent, while Matt Lewis and Dwight Wilson will come to Harrisonburg as a shooting guard and power forward, respectively. Wilson, a Florida native, is the only player who doesn't come from Virginia.

The coaching staff believes they are just right for JMU.

"More in line with the vision," Deane said.

"Perfect fits for James Madison University. He is not only trying to get the right player but the right fit as well. And I think he is very conscience of that having gone to school here. Albeit 20 years ago, having gone to school he has a feel for the community. He has done a great job trying to get guys that will make their transition smooth."

JMU hopes to continue to add playmakers to its roster as they've struggled to replace graduated guard Ron Curry en route to a 1-11 start.

"I don't think it has to do with Rowe, specifically losing the 11 games," senior forward Yohanny Dalember said. "The fact we lost a playmaker by the name of Ron Curry who averaged 18 points per game and three plus assists, not a lot of turnovers, he was a playmaker, he was a very good player and a very clutch guy. So we lost that and we lost the head of our offense in a way."

With the current four commits Deane thinks things are coming together for Rowe and the program.

"I think in the future what we will be doing is trying to take a few things away from the other team because we can score enough points to win," Deane said. "I think that we will be more of an up-tempo team, a more skilled offensive team, we may not be nearly as big but we will be more athletic, and I think might be more fun to watch from a scoring perspective."

Deane believes Rowe's vision for the program is to foster a team that creates fits for opposing defenses, in contrast to the current team, which relies on developing strong game plans against superior competition. While the Dukes aren't off to the best start this season, the program expects much better performances in the years to come.

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